

Remarks

Overview

The present application includes claims 1-25 with claims 14-24 being withdrawn. In this response, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 12. No new matter has been added with the claim amendments, and support for the amendments to claims 1 and 12 may be found at, for example and without limitation, page 5, line 33 to page 6, line 16. Additional support may also be found in the specification. Entry of the amendments to claims 1 and 12 is respectfully requested. Claims 1-13 and 25-34 are currently pending in this application.

Examiner Interview

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the telephonic interview held with the Examiner on April 19, 2010. During the interview, the claims were discussed in light of the references cited in the Office Action. No agreement was reached with respect to the claims.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-13 and 25-34 were rejected as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,171,730 to Morita, et al. ("Morita") in view of Published PCT Application No. WO01/79606 to Grönroos ("Grönroos"). The rejected claims include independent claims 1 and 27.

Claim 1

Applicant submits that Morita, alone or in combination with Grönroos, does not disclose, teach, or suggest the fibrous web of amended claim 1 comprising "an amount of solids, wherein the solids include fibrous material, and a filler embedded throughout the fibrous web, wherein the filler is a substance in a granular form, having a rotationally symmetrical shape and an inner part and a crust part, whereby the density of the inner part is lower than the crust part, the granular form settles in spaces between a plurality of fibers of the fibrous material so that bonds between the plurality of fibers of the fibrous material are maintained, wherein the density of the inner part is about 10 to 90% of that of the crust part, and the amount of filler used is within the range of approximately 30 to approximately 60% of the amount of solids."

Morita is directed to a "heat-sensitive recording paper." Morita, Abstract. Particles of pigment are impregnated into the surface of the paper. See, e.g., Morita, col. 2, ll. 34-43 ("the present inventors found that when the surface of substrate paper was impregnated with a pigment in a dry weight of at least 1 g/m², the air permeability of the substrate paper decreased, resulting in an increase in the

transfer of tailings to the thermal head but, in contrast, when it was impregnated with a pigment having a dry weight of less than 1 g/m², a decrease in the air permeability of substrate paper can be prevented, resulting in a decrease in the transfer of tailings to the thermal head."); and col. 2, ll. 66-67 ("These pigments should be impregnated only into the surface of substrate paper."). Applicants respectfully submit that Morita teaches away from "a filler embedded throughout the fibrous web," as recited in claim 1. For example, Morita discloses:

These pigments **should be impregnated only into the surface of substrate paper. If they are impregnated in the entire bulk of substrate paper, its void volume will decrease to result in lower sensitivity.** The depth of impregnation is usually no more than a third of the thickness of substrate paper but this is not the requirement that must be satisfied in a strict way.

Morita, col. 2, l. 66 – col. 3, l. 4 (emphasis added). Morita thus discloses that pigments are impregnated into the surface of a paper, as a pigment disposed throughout the paper may "result in lower sensitivity," which is contrary to the purpose of "providing high sensitivity without causing any undesired transfer of tailing to the thermal head." Morita, Abstract. Morita therefore does not disclose or suggest at least that a filler is "embedded throughout the fibrous web," as recited in claim 1.

Grönroos, as mentioned in a previous Response, "relates to a coating element, a coated fibrous web, and methods of manufacturing the same." The particle granules of Grönroos are part of a coating, not the underlying fibrous web. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Grönroos also does not disclose or suggest at least that a filler is "embedded throughout the fibrous web," as recited in claim 1, nor does the combination of Morita and Grönroos disclose or suggest at least that a filler may be "embedded throughout the fibrous web," as recited in claim 1.

For at least this reason, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-13 and 25 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be in condition for allowance at least for the reasons given above in connection with claim 1, and for the further limitations of claims 2-13 and 25. Such action is respectfully requested.

Claim 27

Claim 27 recites, in pertinent part, "a plurality of fibers; and a filler embedded throughout the plurality of fibers." Independent claim 27, while different in scope than claim 1, is similar to claim 1, and thus the arguments above with respect to claim 1 are also applicable to claim 27. Applicants

respectfully submit that independent claim 27 is therefore in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Claims 28-34 depend from independent claim 27 and are believed to be in condition for allowance at least for the reasons given above in connection with claim 27, and for the further limitations of claims 28-34. Such action is respectfully requested.

Closing

Applicant submits that claims 1-13 and 25-34 are in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

If necessary, Applicants request that this response be considered a request for an extension of time appropriate for the response to be timely filed. Applicants request that any required fees needed beyond those submitted with this amendment be charged to the account of Baker & Daniels, Deposit Account No. 02-0390.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below should any question or comment arise during consideration of this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,
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